The Underground

UTSC's student newspaper since 1980

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Volume 22, Issue 10

Thieves make off with "Bust a Move"

Women's Centre Exposed

Where did those 80's stars go?

UTSC joins CFS, pg. 5

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The Underground

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At **The Underground** we love unsolicited material, especially letters and opinion pieces. Should such material be typed or printed and delivered to **The Underground**'s snazzy portable by or before noon on the Friday prior to the desired publication date, we will more than likely print it. We kindly ask that submissions be of 800 words or less and that they include the writer's name and student number.

Submissions become the property of **The Underground** and may or may not be published at the whim of *The Editorial Board*. *The Board* reserves the right to poke fun at submissions, post them on the wall in **The Underground**'s snazzy portable (for the enjoyment of our staff and guests) or alter them in print in any way provided it is so acknowledged. By submission, authors implicitly bow down to the total editorial control of *The Editorial Board* and freely consent to the addition witty comments and criticisms (especially in the case of libelous or malicious submissions) courtesy of the snarky editors.

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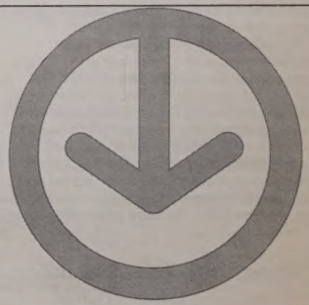

editorial

We're not "mainstream"... If you're reading this, then neither are you.

This week's issue represents two very different aspects of the Underground's editorial policies. I have been misquoted in the past as having said that articles in this paper should be "interesting, relevant and controversial", and that the paper would no longer cater to the "mainstream". The correction I would like to make is that articles that wish to make it into this paper should be interesting, relevant OR controversial... And this paper will not cater to the majority of students that don't have the time or inclination to pick up a copy. There is a big difference here. Articles possessing all three of those qualities are rare beasts indeed. If you're reading this article, then ***we are trying to cater to you***.

It is true that this paper has forayed into "the sensational" several times this semester. And yes, the UPSI section is beginning to wear thin for us too... We had wanted to answer real questions, instead of just bashing *Dear Abby* every week, but we never received any letters, so we just kept on with the wise-cracks. Though it might not always seem so, we do actually care about things other than drugs, serial murder and cheap laughs at the expense of lonely housewives from Arizona.

The content of this issue ranges from interesting to relevant to controversial. And while there isn't really a single article that possesses all three of these things, every article in the paper this week is important.

In brief: Keith Friedlander and Christian Lucier are wrestling with our collective desire to return to some childhood idyll, while Sachin Hingoo dissects the way the culture-mongers feed on that desire. The UTSC Police contributed a Student Crimestoppers report detailing a recent theft on campus, and calling for community involvement to bring the thieves to justice. UTSC has joined CFS. Another national student lobby group, CASA, makes headway with the Federal Government. President Birgeneau gaffs on U of T's diversity. I found out the Women's Centre is a joke. There is a sports article... And, well, our columnists are up to their usual tricks.

So what am I getting at? Well, the Underground will never be all things to all people. But it does provide a forum for discussion at this school, even if students here choose largely to ignore it.

And really, this paper will always be an exercise in contradiction... So long as "The Voice of Scarborough Campus" is a paper called *The Underground*, you're likely to find articles mocking Dear Abby side-by-side with articles that call for a Women's Centre that makes good on it's mandate.

Embrace the absurdity of it all, and send me an angry letter already... If you can't be bothered to let me know what you want to see printed here, then I can't be bothered trying to figure out what you want... I'm an editor, my dears, not a mind-reader.

Chris McKinnon
Editor in Chief

letters

Re: Diversity, My Ass (Satan's Bakesale, Nov. 6, 2002)

I have a comment in a Wednesday November 6th article called "diversity, my ass!" the writier talks about basically the tension and hatred between the different groups of students we have on campus. He also mentions that he is 'saddened' by how people are apes. No I assume that this is an article attempting to make aware the segragation we have on campus, so if this is the case, (and correct me if I'm wrong) then why do you print things like you do in the problem solvers section which only makes fun of peoples problems or what have you. It seems to be a bit of a contradiction, and I don't know about what others think but they're not that funny anyways, kind of dumb. It would be good if there was a real place peeps could write in with problems (has that ever been tried? I'm not sure). Might make more students want to be involved in the paper.

Regards,

Canadian Forever

Editor's Note: In general, at The Underground, we try not to censor any of our writers or columnists (unless you're our former Life Editor, who felt that our desire for interesting content was actually censorship... meh.) The Problem-Solvers might actually attempt to solve real problems if anyone ever sent us any... Thanks for pointing out the contradiction though... You would deserve nothing less than a gold star, if you had any sense of grammar or knew how to spell "writer". The Problem-Solvers recommend that you run a spell/grammar check on anything you write (essays, lab reports, etc.) before you hand it in... -Ed.

Hate our guts? Wish we were dead?

Send any opinions or letters to the editor to:

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or email undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca with "Opinion" or "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line.

(By the way, we're total masochists; we'll print whatever you send us.)

Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard.

- H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

comments

Memories For Sale - The Thing about Kitsch

Sachin Hingoo
Associate Editor

Kitsch. What does it mean, exactly? You can define it through examples, many of which are discussed right here in this issue. GI Joe is kitschy, so are Rainbow Brite, Atari, Devo and Robotech. But can you truly define "kitsch"? Well, I can. And that's why I'm the one writing this article and you're the one reading it.

Kitsch is the act of placing a highbrow-style kind of connoisseurship on a lowbrow subject, or at least a subject that's widely considered to be lowbrow. For example, I collect *Transformers* comics in the same way that an old rich dude would collect cars, or paintings, or gold coins in a vault where you can bathe in them. I see *Transformers*, not just the comic but the entire phenomenon as an important piece of our culture. Elevating this 80's TV series to the level of, say, a sculpture at the AGO is what kitsch is all about. Kitsch allows highbrow culture (associated with things that once defined being "cultured" like going to museums, the opera, classical music, etc.) to mingle with lowbrow, or mass culture. Basically, if it's mass-produced, or if it's considered "mainstream", it's lowbrow. Britney? Lowbrow. Pokemon? Lowbrow. "Dude, Where's My Car?" The lowest of brows. It is, at its core, a class distinction that separates the rich from the rest of us. But kitsch embodies that middle ground between being cultured and being trendy. Nostalgia, the longing for the past, lives in this middle ground too, and is actually a condition that is brought on by "kitschy" material. Kitsch serves the purpose of bridging the gap between generations. For example, you'll probably be able to play with your kids on Playstation 7 saying, "son, I remember when all we had back then was a Sega Genesis with Mortal Kombat 1 and only one controller, and we were happy!" Because of the fact that its appeal is very wide-reaching, marketers and tastemakers the world over are quick to jump on the kitsch/nostagia phenomenon. Don't believe me? Let's take a look at some recent popular culture phenomena and you can tell me if they don't reek of kitschiness:

- KFC re-introduces the Colonel's "Heritage Meal", which is just the crappy non-extra-crispy chicken that no one wants, but it's in the old "traditional" containers!
- Juicy Fruit uses that horrible "taste is gonna move ya" jingle in a new commercial
- The Glad garbage bag guy is back. Of course, children run from him now. But still.
- Hulk Hogan is popular again, for some reason.
- That 70's and (the despicable) 80's Show.

And last but not least, all of our favorite cartoon series have been re-incarnated and jazzed up for the new generation of Pokemon-spoiled stimulus addicts that we call "children". Transformers is back in an awful series that stinks of *Digimon*-ism, GI-Joe and Thundercats have been resurrected as comic books, and they've even brought He-Man back! But if you've noticed the trend with these phenomena, they've all been re-contextualized. They've grown up at the same rate as we have. The Transformers comic, for example, is much darker, more violent, and contains much more complex themes than the original "I've got more Energon cubes than you" storylines. This makes the characters even easier for us to relate to. We're not watching the old cartoons but rather adult stories starring characters whom we've come to know and love.

You can see why it's so attractive for marketers to go for kitsch value; they get two target markets - the most profitable two - for the price of one. As a marketer with your grubby hands on the *Transformers* franchise, for example, you get your ever-so-precious 18-35 market (us) who bought the toys and watched the show, even shelled out for the movie the first time around. Now we're so happy to see our old pals Starscream and Megatron and Optimus and Mirage that we'll gladly shell out for them *again*, this time with our own money, not our parents' (well maybe, but you get my point) in an attempt to reclaim our youth. In addition to our age group, the marketers also get a new generation of kids, because they're showing their "new and improved" Transformers series on YTV, and incorporating the equally trendy faux-anime style employed by *Digimon* or *Cardcaptors* to make sure it becomes popular. Those kids, of course, will hound their parents until their Moms or Dads literally die from frustration, or buy the toys/games/cards. Bingo, double your sales.

This is the new nostalgia. It's not about looking back fondly on the past, remembering how much fun it was to sit in front of the TV on Saturday morning and lose yourself in the wonders of the animated realm. No, the tastemakers are much smarter now, and they know how to exploit your emotions, your feeling of longing for the past, with the express purpose of selling stuff. The next generation will be the first to be raised almost entirely by a focus group, and if you thought we had the formula for commodifying memories in the 80's buddy, think again. We're seeing fads come out that already seem implanted with a kitsch value; Pokemon, for example with its cards and toys and you've "gotta catch 'em all" embodies this completely. There'll be a huge market for these items if they ever become scarce, and can't you just see people looking back and asking, "remember when everyone had those Tamigotchi things?" So while you sit back and read this issue (assuming of course that you're not lining your hamster cage with it), I encourage you to take a critical perspective. And while it's great to remember, to reminisce, don't long for the past - long for a future where nostalgia is about a memory, not a product.

news

UTSC joins CFS

During the referendum held November 5 through 7, UTSC undergraduate students voted in support of joining the Canadian Federation of Students. The SCSU reports that 87.9% of the votes in the referendum were cast in favour of joining the national student group. UTSC was not alone in its bid to join CFS; the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) and the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS) held similar referenda for their constituencies, with 65.4% in favour in the SAC referendum and 79.9% in favour of joining CFS in the APUS referendum. The referendum results will be discussed at the next SCSU Board of Directors meeting on December 6th, 2002 in room S-403 at 10am.

About the Cover

The scene of the crime...

You can no longer play "Bust a Move" in the arcade, as the motherboard for that particular game was stolen last Monday. For more details, and descriptions of the suspected thieves, see page 12.

Photo by Chris McKinnon

news

CASA lobbies Federal government

Martin says 'no' to education in FTAA

Student leaders from all over Canada met and took to Parliament Hill for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' (CASA) annual lobby conference, from October 26th to November 1st. 45 CASA members met with 90 Members of Parliament to discuss a variety of issues, including changes to the Canada Student Loan Program, undergraduate research and the exclusion of education from the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement.

CASA's National Director, Liam Arbuckle, believes that the conference was a resounding success, stating: "Our message got to the government loud and clear."

CASA members met with Paul Martin, to discuss education and the FTAA. Martin is reported to have stated unequivocally that he will not allow education to be included in the FTAA. Martin also suggested that the CSLP was in need of a "complete overhaul".

CASA is a federal student lobby organisation, consisting of a coalition of 23 student governments representing over 310 000 post-secondary students nationwide.

U of T President's remarks sparks controversy

Concerned community forms coalition to combat discrimination

University of Toronto student groups, led by the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), have formed a coalition to increase diversity and fight systemic discrimination at U of T.

The coalition was formed in response to a series of comments made by U of T President, Robert Birgeneau, at a meeting of the university's Governing Council on October 31, 2002. Birgeneau is quoted as having said "White students too often choose to go to other universities because [the University of Toronto is so diverse." Birgeneau went on to say that the diversity at the university reflects the diversity of the Greater Toronto Area.

He spent much of the weekend following his remarks apologising. "I didn't mean to offend anybody or to imply in any way that this isn't a great university and that all segments of the student population aren't thriving here," Birgeneau said.

In a speech made in March of 2002, Birgeneau stated: "When I was an undergraduate here nearly 40 years ago, our student body was much less diverse than our current student body, and our faculty was even less so. Today's faculty in part reflects that history. Our future will be different." Birgeneau has made commitments to encouraging diversity in the past, though no explicit action plan has been laid out.

The APUS-led coalition intends to demand that the university adopt its seven-point action plan to increase diversity and combat systemic discrimination on campus.

President of APUS, Emily Sadowski has vowed: "Every Governing Council meeting we will be there to demand that U of T implement our action plan to ensure an environment that is inclusive to all."

sports

Another week, another victory for Men's B Division Volleyball

By: Herbie Ku

Continuing with the trend from New College, Commerce forfeited its match against the UTSC Men's B Division Volleyball team on November 7. Apparently the intimidation factor was too much for Commerce to handle that they decided to avoid a potential spanking on the court. What made matters worse was the fact that they failed to notify the UTSC team of their no-show. This simply wasted the time and effort of all the players given the distance the players had to travel to attend the game. Nonetheless, the team salvaged its trip by having an intense inter-squad scrimmage. However, to make things more interesting, a wager was made between both teams – with the losing side picking up the tab for dinner. This certainly provided extra incentive to make the scrimmage more competitive. After playing 3 hard fought sets, the team comprised of Jussi Maattanen, Ken Lee, Elbert Nghiem, Elvia Law, and Herbie Ku came out on top. This meant the remaining players were on the hook for dinner, much to their chagrin. After the thorough practice session, the team refreshed themselves, packed up and headed to their respective cars with another victory under their belts.

The team convoyed out of the Athletic Centre parking lot, car after car, and proceeded to Jussi's residence by the waterfront for dinner. The drive down Spadina was smooth and pleasant until setter Elbert Nghiem ploughed through a cardboard box that was inadvertently left on the street. Little did everyone realize that Corolla could skyrocket a box 20 feet into the air and onto the other side of the road. Thankfully, the box only suffered minor damages.

Finally arriving at Jussi's place, the team kicked back and relaxed as they awaited for the pizza (from Delivery, NOT to be confused with Delisio!!). During the wait, the team took in a very informative session of the Simpsons. Good times. The pizza finally arrived and everyone quickly scrambled for a slice like starving carnivores. The team was very thankful for the generosity shown by Vincent Cho, Andrew Kwa, Ronish Gupta, Antony Yang, Ben Duoracek, and Kristoffer Illagen for the meal.

After the feast, the team took a tour of the facility, including the rooftop, spa, pool hall, and the indoor driving range. There were plenty of awkward moments during the tour, particularly in the elevator ride. Not only was the small elevator crammed with 12 people (all with full stomachs), but plenty of "mysterious poking" below the waist was being felt my some of the players. Some weren't as fortunate, since the nudges were being felt from the front, behind, and every imaginable angle. No player has claimed responsibility for the poking as of yet.

After the tour concluded, the players packed its belongings and headed their own separate ways with another victory added to their already impressive record. Just another night at the office for the Men's B volleyball team.

More than meets the eye

Dreamwave Productions breathes new life into the Transformers franchise...

Keith Friedlander
Arts Editor

Nothing says nostalgia to our generation like Transformers. Perhaps the greatest proof of this is the recent revival of the Transformers franchise in comics, television and toys. While it never completely disappeared, this most recent push is probably the strongest effort in a long time to breathe new life into the old franchise. I had a chance to speak with Derek Choo-Wing, Director of Management for Dreamwave Productions, the comic studio that has gained the coveted rights to make the new line of Transformers comic books and bring about the return of our beloved giant robots.

As a smaller studio, it may be surprising to see Dreamwave hold such juicy franchise rights. While Derek explained that it was no easy matter securing the rights, in fact Dreamwave had always been a shoe-in to be involved. One of the notable traits of the young, local-based comic studio is that it holds some of the freshest, most talented comic artists in the industry today. "We were being approached by the different companies bidding on the Transformers rights to do the art for their series. Eventually we decided to try and get the entire rights to ourselves and we managed to do that."

When I asked how well the rest of their projects were faring in comparison to Transformers, Derek gave a small laugh and explained that Transformers does about five times the business of the rest of their publications. "With our others we do quite good in comparison to other independent studios, but with Transformers we compete with the premiere companies like DC."

Dreamwave is currently running three different series in the Transformers universe: including *Transformers G1*, *Transformers: Armada*, and *Transformers: The War Within*. For those interested in picking some up, here's the break down. G1 is a six issue mini that follows a new story starring the original characters of the cartoon's first season. This is the tribute that old-school fans are likely to fawn over as the original favourites like Megatron and Starscream are brought back, with remarkable attention to detail, by Dreamwave's talented artists. "The artists had access to all the old figures and art and as long-time fans of the series themselves were meticulous with the detail," Derek told me.

Transformers: Armada is the project being pushed by Hasbro, who have long held control over the franchise's rights and have a new cartoon and toy series in the works for the *Armada* setting. Aimed at younger audiences, this series has a simpler plot, similar to anime-styled children's programming. In this series, the Transformers seek to augment their power by hunting down smaller Transformers called Mini-Cons. As you can probably tell it smacks of the 'gotta catch them all' mentality that is so effective in attracting young audiences these days. Derek explained that this series would probably not appeal so much to the longer standing fans of the series.

Finally, *War Within* is Dreamwave's own personal project and certainly presents the strongest and most creative of the three stories. Written by veteran comic writer Simon Furman it follows the years of war on Cybertron prior to the Transformers' exile to Earth. This is real showcase of Dreamwave's creativity as they expand on the history and origins of Optimus Prime and Megatron. Just from reading the first issue it's clear to see that the creativity in plot devices and artwork are much less constrained in *War Within*.

So what future temptations will Dreamwave come up with to prey on your expendable budget and weakness for fond memories? Next year the *G1* series will be continued by another 6-issue mini that may feature some more characters from later in the television series' history. Perhaps most interesting of all though are the approaching release of the Transformers Profile Books. In the past such projects for Transformers has meant a booklet of quaint bios for characters that provided little more then eye-candy and meaningless statistics. Dreamwave however, working closely with Destination Entertainment, plan to make their series of upcoming Profile Books more than just a series of character bios, but a broad history of the entire Transformers continuity for their future projects to be based upon. And with no official background ever written for the Transformers universe, this series of expansive bios and explanatory history may become the authoritative source of the series' roots.

As for Dreamwave, according to Derek, the small studio isn't interested in staying small much longer. They plan to use comics as a foundation for a number of other media they plan to tap into. Perhaps in the future we'll hear more about Dreamwave on the big or small screen, or perhaps producing their own action-figures.

It may seem odd to some people that there be such a sudden spike in interest in old cartoon series from our childhood. I asked Derek what he attributed the recent revival of popularity of 80's franchises to. "Basically everyone who grew up watching these shows is reaching an age where they have a disposable income and nothing to spend it on," he replied. He went on to say that it happens in every decade and that he wouldn't be surprised to see a return of interest in the 90's in five years. A scary thought indeed.

Of course, the most important question of all had to be which Transformer is Derek's favorite. No surprise there. The answer was a resolute, "Soundwave". Clearly, you can tell when a man knows his Transformers.

glow: not an ordinary pub

Arts Management students bring light to the Meeting Place

Shannon Fleming and Karen Lackner

Are you stressed about upcoming exams? Don't be. Let yourself *glow*. On Friday, November 22, SAC and the Senior Seminar Class in Arts Management present *glow: [sub] urban night lights* in the Meeting Place. Doors open at 9:00pm for the party of the year.

This special event is part of the Expressions Against Oppression Week being organized by the Student's Administrative Council. It's a chance to see some of the diverse arts and culture at UTSC in a way that you've never seen before. Of course, you'll be able to dance the night away with DJ Nikki Red spinning all of your favourite music at this licenced all-ages event (wristband policy in effect). You'll also be able to get body painting done, see video art and groove with living statues. This is so much more than an ordinary pub.

What's even more fantastic about you coming to *glow* is that you will be giving money back to yourself. All of the profits from the event will be going towards a new fund that the senior arts management students have created. The Cultural Affairs Student Initiatives Fund will allow all students the opportunity to apply for financial support that may be used for artistic and cultural projects. Eligible projects that may be funded include literary events, theatre, dance, visual art, film or any other project that adds to the artistic and cultural atmosphere at UTSC. Even if you're not in an arts programme, by next year you will have your chance to apply for money that will support your artistic need to create!

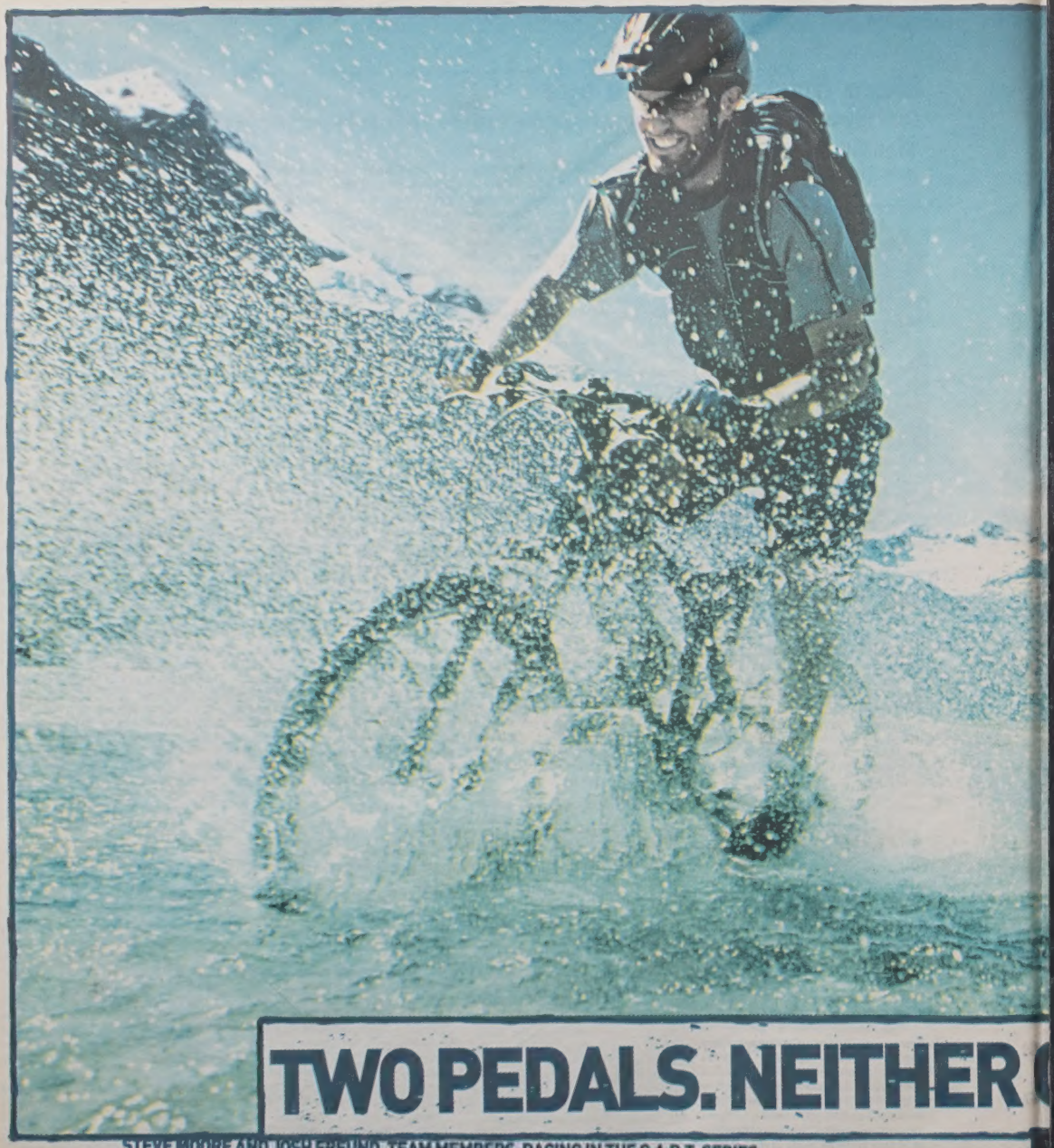
The Cultural Affairs Student Initiatives Fund will be overseen by a committee that will include Leah Takata, The Cultural Affairs Coordinator for UTSC. The idea of having a fund to enhance the cultural life on campus and finance the creativity of students is supported by many people. SAC was very excited to make *glow: [sub] urban night lights* a showcase for cultural diversity in its Expressions Against Oppression activities. The senior seminar class in arts management is also thankful for the generous support they have received from the Scarborough Campus Students' Union and the Council on Student Services. Principal Paul Thompson has generously agreed to match every dollar raised for the fund, dollar for dollar, up to $5000.

The arts management students are also thankful to the students, faculty and staff of UTSC who have already supported the Cultural Affairs Student Initiatives Fund. On Halloween the class and volunteers dressed in costumes and sold bags of candy for a toonie in the Meeting Place. This fundraising event, *Trick or Toonie*, raised over $500.

Advanced tickets for *glow: [sub] urban night lights* are $10 each and now on sale in the Meeting Place. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door on the night of November 22 for $12 each.

Glow: [sub] urban night lights is a celebration of all art forms and is a way for the senior class in arts management to express their gratitude for the artistic and cultural activities they have enjoyed throughout their years at UTSC.

So don't stress out about exams, come to the Meeting Place on November 22nd and let yourself *glow!*



STEVE MOORE AND JOSH FREUND, TEAM MEMBERS, RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES.

It's your world
ONE IS A BRAKE. NICE.
TeamPlayers.ca

The Women's Centre exposed...

After four years at UTSC, Chris McKinnon finally finds out what the Women's Centre is all about.

From the Women's Centre's website:

What is our goal?

Our goal at the Scarborough College Women's Centre is to improve the condition and status of women at the University of Toronto.

Who are we?

Our administrative body is comprised of the Women's Centre Collective: a group of women acting together to organise and maintain the Centre.

Who is it for?

All students, faculty, and staff at the University of Toronto are welcome to use the facilities and to participate in all our events.

What do we do?

We are committed to raising awareness about the following issues:

- ***Cultural Awareness & Anti-Racism***
- ***Sexism***
- ***Women's Health***
- ***Homophobia***
- ***Violence against Women***
- ***Eating Disorders***

More Visible Than Ever...

I would have to say that this year has been a year of unprecedented visibility for the UTSC Women's Centre. This is my fourth year at this school; I have been involved in student government, the arts, and the rest of the extra-curricular student life. And so I feel qualified in my knowledge of "what's going on" around this campus, and I feel justified when I say that the Women's Centre is more visible than ever. This year, I've seen them run a logo contest and participate (though to what degree, I must admit I am unsure) in Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October. This month the Centre is poised to get involved in the White Ribbon Campaign, to raise awareness about violence against women. Now before I get going, let me just say that the Women's Centre's organizers and volunteers deserve an "E" for effort... And well, that's about it.

It isn't that a logo contest is a bad idea... On the contrary, it is a great way to get students involved in a Women's Centre that has been all but non-existent in campus life for years. But why was that the only project the Centre organized in the crucial first month of the school year? Any "student leader" worth his or her weight in salt knows that September is the most important time of the year for on-campus student groups and societies, because that's when you get a crack at all the new frosh, those gullible fresh-faced keeners straight off the high school honour-roll. In September, you can hold those kids in the palm of you hand. By now, they're so bogged down with mid-terms and assignments that you're lucky to eek a "hello" out them in the halls. So where was the educational programming, the outreach campaigns and the advocacy? Why isn't our Women's Centre educating UTSC about real-life issues like Date Rape, Sexual Harassment, Eating Disorders, Women's Rights and campus safety concerns? During one of the most crucial times of the year, the UTSC Women's Centre was nearly invisible. The Logo Contest posters were small and largely inconspicuous; An opportunity for the Centre to recruit and educate new UTSC students was missed. In response to this, the Centre's Coordinator, Kinzi, said that they were able to recruit 30 new volunteers in September, though at this point, in early November, only 15 people or so are actively involved at the Women's Centre.

With respect to the Centre's foray into Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, I can't knock their good intentions, but what I do have to question is their commitment. It is entirely unclear why the Women's Centre's participation in a education and awareness campaign with such significant infrastructure (think Run For The Cure, CIBC, etc) would appear to have been put together by the kids from N'Sheemaehn. Come on people! Banners made with crayola markers? No visible use of rulers or straight edges to keep your text level? That sort of half-baked effort smacks of insensitivity; Ask a Marketing student, the quality of your advertising is important. Considering that those banners were going to be hanging there for a whole month would it really have been out of the budget to spend a couple hundred dollars at Kinko's to produce some real banners with a professional look? Awareness was raised, no doubt, but not about breast cancer.

I understand that the Centre is now proposing

to get involved with the White Ribbon Campaign, an education, awareness and fundraising campaign organized and conducted **by men** to speak out against men who commit violence against women. The whole premise of the campaign is designed to change men's attitudes towards violence against women, **through education and action by men**. And it has been effective. A large part of the efficacy is due to the peer pressure that is created and while the Women's Centre's support of the initiative is well-intentioned, their direct participation will, to a degree, undermine one of the campaign's greatest strengths. What's more, when I spoke about the campaign with one of the Centre's assistant coordinators, she was entirely unaware that the White Ribbon Campaign has traditionally been organized by men. Later, when I had a chance to sit down with Kinzi, she first said that the Centre would be participating in the White Ribbon Campaign, but later clarified that Women's Centre was really just going to "support the White Ribbon Campaign."

THE GOOD: *The space is there, funding is available and the Centre is acknowledged and supported by UTSC's administration.*

THE BAD: *The info on-hand is outdated, the events are poorly organised (if at all), the topics are poorly researched and the atmosphere of the Centre is not really all that open and welcoming.*

THE UGLY: *The volunteer staff are woefully uneducated on an overwhelming number of relevant issues; and they seem to think that's okay.*

These Pamphlets Are Old (Circa 1993)

When I told a friend that I was working on this article, she mentioned that she'd picked up a pamphlet with information on breast cancer at the Women's Centre a few weeks back and she had been dismayed to find the information out-dated. I found that to be a rather odd statement given the Centre's recent participation in an awareness campaign dedicated to the educating people about this disease, so I set out to do some research. The pamphlet in question was indeed out-dated, printed in 1993. The medical advances in the treatment and diagnosis of breast cancer have been huge in the past nine years... The pamphlets at the Women's Centre have failed to keep up.

During my first visit to the Women's Centre I picked up some 20 pamphlets at random. Of those (20) nearly half (9) had a year of publication on them. All nine were printed in 1996 or before. As I turned over a pamphlet that was distributed in 1996 by the AIDS Committee of Toronto, I exclaimed: "1996!" The volunteer present shrugged and interjected: "We're working on getting new pamphlets..." Hell week, it seems, was taking its toll. But then again, it isn't as though pamphlets from the mid-90's go out-of-date overnight. Ordering new educational materials is something that should be accomplished regularly, at least on a yearly or semi-annual basis. It could easily be a task that is conducted during the summer months, when classes aren't in full swing.

The Way Things Work

The UTSC Women's Centre, operates in non-hierarchical fashion. The Centre is administered by a collective: "a group of women acting together to organise and maintain the Centre."

The UTSC Women's Centre receives funding by way of a student levy, collected on their behalf by the St. George Campus Women's Centre. When I asked, Kinzi declined to let me in on the size of her Centre's operating budget, but did state that it is "very small."

The 15 or so volunteers and coordinators meet regularly to discuss plans, upcoming events and other issues affecting the Centre. Events are planned on a month to month basis.

Last week, when I asked about seeing an events calendar or a list of projects on the go, I received blank looks from the two volunteers in the room. "We don't really work like that," I was told. "We're all so busy, you know. It's hard to schedule things. We usually just work on stuff as we go along."

"Wouldn't a little bit of advance planning make it easier to manage your time if you're really busy?" I ask.

"In theory..." I was told. Indeed. At last check, the Whte Ribbon Campaign was on the table, and there were some vague plans for a drop-in stress-relief chat, possibly with yoga involved.

"So what do you do here then?" I ask finally, because my research was resulting in only more confusion.

"Well, mostly we act as a referral service... If someone needs counselling we can refer them to the Health and Wellness Centre, or other off-campus services."

"What other sorts of services might you refer people to?" I ask. The volunteer motions to a binder on a table in the corner. "The binder has everything in it. Whatever people need... Names, phone numbers, services we can refer them to."

"The Women's Centre is supposed to be a resource for LGBTQ students..."

"Of course! We don't discriminate."

"What sorts of services might you refer queer students to?"

"That depends on what they need." Looks at the Binder. Oh...

I decide to try changing tack and ask what sorts of training the Women's Centre volunteers receive. Again, I receive blank looks. "Anti-oppression, anti-racism, mediation, facilitation, crisis intervention?" I suggested. Shakes head.

"Don't you think that sort of training might be helpful?" I asked.

The consensus between the two volunteers appeared to be that such training is irrelevant to the referral service they offer. Racism, sexism, homophobia, equity issues... Not problems at UTSC; At least not in the Women's Centre.

"What about an anti-homophobia workshop? Did you do that?" I asked. I was getting desperate. Could the Women's Centre really employ a "sink or swim" training programme for its volunteers?

"Why would we need that?" And my queer heart sank.

"Is there any training provided to volunteers at all?"

"Oh, yes. We bring them in and show them around," Hand sweeps through small office. "And we show them how to find things in the binder." Ah, the Binder.

In my discussion with Kinzi this week, she elaborated on the training new volunteers receive. It involves a 15-30 minute orientation on the Centre, information gathering tips, guiding students through the resources at the Centre's disposal, and a dash of sensitivity training. That seems like a lot to cover in under a half hour.

I left the Women's Centre with a queasy feeling and an invitation to attend the next Executive Meeting, so that I could learn more about the Centre. The prospect of learning more about what goes on there scared the hell out of me. Luckily, a family emergency prevented me from attending that meeting. No doubt if I had, this article would have been twice as long, and perhaps a good deal angrier.

UTSC STUDENT CRIME STOPPERS NEEDS YOUR HELP

University of Toronto at Scarborough Student Crime Stoppers and the University of Toronto Police are asking for the community's assistance in identifying four theft suspects.

Theft from UTSC Arcade Video Machine - Caught on Tape at 1:38 p.m. Monday, November 4th, 2002

At 1:35 p.m. Monday, November 4th, 2002 four male youths entered the 2nd Level Bladen Wing Arcade near the Library entrance. The arcade was open for business at the time. The suspects proceeded to scope out the room and ensure that there were no witnesses nearby. The 1st and 2nd suspects pretended to play video games while watching for witnesses, while suspect #3 and suspect #4 moved a video game called 'Bust-A-Move' away from doorway view. The 4th suspect male stood in front of the 3rd suspect while he pried the machine open and removed the motherboard (operating system). The males then departed the arcade separately.

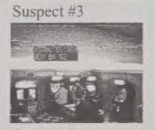
Suspect #1

Suspect #1 - Male, white, light hair, clean shaven, medium build, approx. 20 yrs. old., wearing a dark ball cap with white letters on the front, multi-layered dark and light shirts and a dark backpack. He entered the Arcade first and served as a lookout by the entrance.

Suspect #2

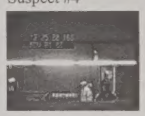
Suspect #2 - Male, brown skin, possibly Indian descent, 5'9", approximately 20 yrs., light build, dark wavy hair, clean shaven, wearing a light coloured jacket with lighter sleeves, light pants, and a dark backpack. He entered the Arcade second and served as a shield (from passing pedestrian traffic) to the theft.

Suspect #3



Suspect #3 - Male, brown skin, possibly Indian descent, 6'0", approx. 23 yrs, heavier build (210 lbs.), wearing a black toque with light insignia on the front, grey sweater with horizontal stripe 8 inch horizontal stripe across chest, dark pants and a black leather jacket. He inspected the entrance camera several times, likely believing it to be phony. He also broke into the video game and removed the motherboard.

Suspect #4



Suspect #4 - Male, possible Asian descent, 5'5", 150 lbs. clean shaven, light build, approx. 20 yrs., wearing a light ball cap, white down-filled winter coat and dark pants.

If you recognize any of these males please notify UTSC Police immediately at **416-287-7398.** Photos of the suspects are available for viewing in the UTSC Police office and in the Police Services wall displays located outside the police office, by the main entrance to the H-Wing cafeteria and by Tim Horton's.

If you wish to remain anonymous, you can call Student Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS. Crime Stoppers will pay a cash reward for any information that will lead to an arrest or successful conclusion of this incident. Callers never have to give their name or testify in court and they do not use call display. Remember, Crime Stoppers is interested in what you know, not who you are.

This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things

Dear Arcade Theft Suspects,

So let me get this straight. SCSU finally renovates the arcade, giving us something worthwhile to do during those four-hour breaks between classes, and you four nutfucks have to go and screw it all up. You break in, the day before the grand opening of the arcade and steal, not money, but the MOTHERBOARD for my beloved "Bust-A-Move". What are you going to do with that, except ensure that no one at UTSC ever bothers to invest in mind-numbing recreational activities for us again? It's people like you who give thievery a bad name.

I have a friend who greatly enjoys shoplifting. She's seriously got it down to an art. Walk into Sporting Life, take off your grubby shoes, ask to try on a new pair of the same shoes, then put your crappy ones in the box and off you go. So much easier than washing your sneakers, huh? This kind of theft is okay by me. Sporting Life is a huge company that includes a certain amount of lost merchandise in their budget. Trust me, they can afford a pair of sneakers. On the other hand, in the four years I've been at this school, November 5 marked the first time the SCSU has ever changed the games in that damn arcade. It's clearly not in their budget to update to the newest Street Fighter game each year, and no one expects them to. (There's a Student Centre to pay for!) In any case, this is why it's kind of nice to see the arcade with some new games for once. However with people like you, why would the student union even bother? Why go to the expense of putting in new games when senseless morons have the unmitigated gall to "bust a move" and steal a fucking motherboard in broad daylight? You make me ill, my friends. A tip for the police, look for four guys sitting in their living room and getting high off glue while staring at the chip and wondering why you can't just duct-tape it to the Gamecube.

So, for anyone reading this, if you would, take a look at the grainy Winona Ryder-esque security camera pics in this issue, and if you know or have seen these individuals, I encourage you to bring them to justice. Or at least to Campus Police.

As a postscript, I must admit that I think it's pretty cool that at UTSC, even our thieves are ethnically diverse. Someone might have said "you can judge a society by its criminals", but I don't know who. If you know, well, that's nice. Anyways, good looking out!

STOP SOME MOTHERFUCKING CRIME ALREADY!
CALL 222-TIPS(8477)

Sachin Hingoo
Associate Editor

80's Sitcom Stars - Where Are They Now?

Christian Lucier finds out what happened to Webster, Mr. Belvedere and Alf...

Remember the good old days of nighttime television, when acid-washed jeans were the bomb and mullets came in geri-curl? That's right readers, I am talking about 80's sitcoms.

Some of the most memorable sitcom characters were created in the 1980's. This is mostly because the majority of 80's sitcom characters were strikingly bizarre and unique. To watch a popular sitcom today is to see five or six regular-Joes sitting in an apartment, bitching about daily life, and boring the hell out of us, the viewers.

However, the 80's were a different time, a time when television stars had finesse and charisma - stars like *Webster*, *Mr. Belvedere*, and *Alf*, just to name a few. Yet, these lovable characters are no longer with us today. They had their fun in the sun, and faded away ages ago, lost forever in the dusty records of post-primetime television. Well damn it, that just wasn't good enough for me. I wanted to know what happened to these characters when they left the tube, so I did some research to see what I could find.

Webster (Emmanuel Lewis) did all right for himself. At the age of thirty-one, Lewis has obtained a theatre arts degree from the Clark Atlanta University, a black belt in tae kwon doe and karate, and owns his own record label. Lewis still dabbles in showbiz now and then. His most recent project is an appearance in the upcoming David Spade film, *Dickie Roberts: Former Childhood Star*. In the film, Lewis is supposed to have a celebrity-boxing match with Spade. At least the little guy is still working.

Mr. Belvedere's (Christopher Hewett) lot in life was very different. Hewett passed away happily at the age of eighty on August 3rd, 2001, as a result of natural ailments. After *Mr. Belvedere*, Hewett went on to play small roles in series such as *Murder She Wrote* and *California Dreaming*. Remaining in television was not exactly Hewitt's intention, nonetheless he went on to enjoy life by visiting family and friends. Mr. Belvedere will be missed.

The creator of *Alf (Alien Life Form)*, Paul Fusco continues trying to keep the Alf character alive. In 1996, a television movie was created called *Project: Alf*, which cleared up some of the loose ends left in the final episode of the series. *Project: Alf* received terrible reviews and was not at all popular with the viewing public. There are reports that discussions have been had about creating an Alf talk show, but I wouldn't count the days until its debut. In the meantime, Alf can be seen in his own 1-800-COLLECT commercial. Someone should tell this guy to throw in the towel.

There we have it, the outcomes of three of the 80's most influential sitcom characters. It was sad in a way to dig this information up. To see how these actors/creations moved on after the greatest success of their lives was sort of a shock. They were certainly not how I remembered them, and after finding all this information, my perceptions of them will never be the same. I kind of wish I hadn't dug up them up in the first place.

life

My Lust, The Destroyer

Satan's Bakesale

Andrew Epstein, "The Lord of Darkness"

I'd like to think I'm a committed person. When it comes down to it I suppose I am, though there are complications. The day before this column arrives on newsstands, my girlfriend and I will have reached the one-and-a-half year mark in our relationship. A scant nine months ago I would have thought that impossible. And not for the reasons you might think. I'm not prepared to give you some sort of diatribe about the merits of polygamy; There are as many pitfalls there as there are in monogamous relationships. But I will say that I never expected it to happen to me. But time passed and now I realize that I've been with the same person for the last 78 weeks. 78 weeks?!? Holy shit, when did that happen? Was I on the toilet the whole time, was I stoned, or perhaps kidnapped? Don't get me wrong, I remember it all, but I don't remember how it passed so quickly.

It has though, been quite a lot of fun. To spare my own head, I'll pass on re-telling the details of our incredible sexual life (it would just make yours seem inadequate by comparison,) but I will say that through her I have been enlightened, both mentally and physically. We've shared some great experiences together, by exploring new places, and trying things we never would have tried alone. So with all that you'd think that I'd be satisfied, wouldn't you?

Most of the time, especially when I'm with her, I want nothing except to bask in the moments that we share together. But a few months ago something began to rear its ugly head. It is my foe, my lover, and the keeper of my darkest desires and secrets. This, my friends, was my dreaded libido. Please don't misunderstand, I feel that to repress one's desires is a sure path to self-destruction. Without gratifying these desires, you'll become more repressed and inward turning. And now that my hormones have returned with a vengeance and I'm finding myself interested in others a lot more than I used to be. I explored the possible causes for this: 1) Boredom. No way could this be it. No matter where my life is at any time, with her or otherwise, it is never boring. 2) I've become accustomed to her and therefore find her less interesting. This again, makes no sense to me. I find her just as interesting as I ever did, and activities in all rooms go on undaunted by the passage of time. Unfortunately, this leads me to conclude that the problem lies in number 3) myself.

I am the problem, because they're my hormones, it's my mind, and my wandering eye. What used to be harmless gazing has now become lusting and yearning. Some people have offered me the advice that it's "only natural" for a man to feel this way. It's his natural imperative to go on and on and on. But there's something about this idea that makes me shudder just slightly. It's that sense of the inflated male ego and outlandish bravado, that I've tried so hard to steer away from for the past few years. But then why does it keep going on?

The question that remained with me was what course of action I wanted to take with this? Repressing my desires is wrong so I should just give in right? If I want something, then it will in turn make me happy. However, even as I'm writing those words I know they are full of shit. Humans may instinctively seek out sex, but they also seek out company. Left without a companion at the end of life, one is bound to be lonely and sullen. As much as we humans have a desire of the flesh, despite what most people (namely men) will claim, we also have a desire of the heart. The heart, of course, will last much longer than the flesh. When you're too old to even move, let alone fuck anyone, you'll be much happier knowing that the person next to you is still committed to you, despite everything.

I know all this. These are facts to me, pure and real facts that cannot be denied. But then why do I come back to the yoke of these regurgitated desires? Is it because I am male? No, it's because I am the person that I've let myself become. Many of us desire things that we damn well know will cause our own downfall. I smoked cigarettes for six years and all I got were a stunted growth spurt and some phlegm. To quote a certain king of all media: "Should I trade half my life for twice as much sex?"

Sometimes I've come too close to realizing those forbidden desires, because they are not forbidden unless I want them to be. Perhaps it's my own insecurity or weak will, but it's my responsibility to do right by her. Her: The one who has stuck by me, and who has made me a better person. I must stay true for her. She has made her sacrifice, and so I will make mine. Farewell life of frivolity - I enter the life of a man in love.

Bear in mind I don't intend this to come off as some sort of sermon from the mound about the benefits of commitment (even though most of you probably need to be committed in another sense). This is what's best for me, and it might not be for you. But take this piece as warning or even just a heads up. If I can lead myself down the wrong path without even knowing it, then so can you.

diversions

diversions

by Kelly Lisle & Ayshia Degia

As all of you readers know, the holiday season is coming. Along with this is exam and term paper time, and what better way to waste precious study hours than by sending a letter home to a family member (we suggest your grandmother. Grandparents love this stuff.) To make this a little bit easier on all of you Team Diversions has made up a generic letter home, which you can use freely. Simply fill in the blanks with relevant details regarding other relatives, pets, food etc, throw a stamp on it, and you're in the good books just in time for the holiday season.

Dear_____,

How are you? I hope you are well. I am _____. I am having a _____ _____ time at school this year. My favourite class is _____ _____. We get to_____. It's hard to believe that in only _____ years I will have my degree and this will all be over. (Insert witty comment about how long you've been in school here) How is _____? I hope _____. All that great food you cook must have done it. I cook an awful lot of _____ while I am here. _____ think(s) I am crazy. Somehow I survive… Exams are coming up. I have _____. It is _____ of studying. Once all of that is done, I should be home_____. I am looking forward to it, and especially to _____ _____ once I get there. I was talking to _____ last week and it reminded me of that time last summer when _____. That was _____.

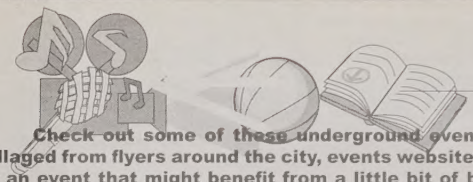
Well, I just thought I would drop you a line, to let you know I'm thinking of you. I _____ _____ you very much. I can't wait to _____ _____.

Love,
(Your name here)

OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY
OMBUDSPERSON

Confidential advice and assistance with complaints unresolved through regular university channels is available to U of T students, faculty and administrative staff. The Ombudsperson maintains office hours at all three U of T campuses (for an appointment, please telephone or e-mail us). For additional information, please visit our website at:

www.utoronto.ca/ombudsperson
222 College Street, Suite 161, Toronto M5T 3J1
Telephone: 416-978-4874
E-mail: ombuds.person@utoronto.ca



events events

Check out some of these underground events... The following is a listing of events information pillaged from flyers around the city, events websites and other low-key or hard-to-find places. If you know of an event that might benefit from a little bit of buzz (i.e. Ticketmaster is not involved) let us know by sending an email with "EVENTS" in the subject line to: *undergnd@utsc.utoronto.ca*

***The Underground* and its staff do not guarantee any information printed in this listing. Do to the often sketchy nature of such events, the details are liable to change, or be outright false. Make use of any contact information provided beforehand.... and otherwise, have fun!**

Nov. 14 OPEN DOOR Festival of Music BENEFIT The Opera House (735 Queen Street East Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Music at 8 p.m. sharp! Tickets are $22 at the door or $20 in advance and can be purchased at CD Replay (523 Bloor W.)/Soundscapes (572 College W.)/Rotate This (620 Queen W.).

Nov. 15 Searching for Adonis. A staged reading of UTSC student Garth Jensen's original creation. 7:30pm Leigha Lee Browne Theatre

Nov. 15 Public Lecture "The Saunders Portrait: Why Does it Matter?" Speaker: Alexander Leggatt. Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles S. W. 5:00 p.m.

Nov. 15 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE - The Taiwanese Series. He Liu [The River]. Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Nov. 15 Ronna Bloom Reading (H310), 11 am

Nov. 18 The Aboriginal Studies Distinguished Lecture Series, feat. Marie Campbell. West Hall of University College, 15 King's College Circle. 7:00 p.m

Nov. 18 "Gender and Race in Writing" feat. Shani Mooloo, the author of the award-wining Cereus Blooms at Night in discussion with Jean Noble and Trish Salah. University College room 179. 15 King's College Circle. 7:30 p.m

Nov. 20 Ballet Creole. Afro-Caribbean Drum and Dance Ensemble, performs in the Meeting Place. 7:30 pm. Limited seating, reserve by calling 416-287-7007. PWYC Admission.

Nov. 20 Toronto Women's Bookstore and Sumach Press present: **BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD: AFRICAN CANADIAN FEMINISMS** Edited by Njoke Nathani Wane, Katerina Deliovsky and Erica Lawson 7pm Toronto Women's Bookstore 73 Harbord Street (at Spadina) FREE event

Nov. 20 There will be an **anti-homophobia workshop** happening on Wednesday November 20th, 2-4pm in the council chambers (4th Floor S-wing)... please come out and support!

Nov. 22 Glow... (sub)urban night lights. Music, dancing, funky performance art, video streaming and body painting. Presented by AMSS 9pm Meeting Place All-ages/wristband. $10 advance/ $15 door

Nov. 22 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE - The Taiwanese Series. Hsi Yen [The Wedding Banquet] Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Nov. 25 The University Professor Lecture Series, feat. Martin Friedland. "Reflections: A History of the University of Toronto" Location: Northrop Frye Hall, 73 Queen"s Park. 7:00 p.m

Nov. 27 Victoria Women's Association presents **"The New Program for First Year Students"** Speaker: Dr. David Cook, Principal, Victoria College. Alumni Hall, 2:00 p.m.

Nov. 27 to Dec. 1 REEL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL. See website for more details. http://www.reelasian.com/

Nov. 27 Re:Cite(All)1 Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, 7 pm

Nov. 27 UTSC Band Holiday Concert Meeting Place, 12 noon: FREE

Nov. 28 Re:Cite(All)1 Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, 7 pm

Nov. 29 Re:Cite(All)1 Leigha Lee Browne Theatre, 7 pm

Nov. 29 UTSC Choirs Holiday Concert Meeting Place, 7 pm: FREE

Nov. 29 Join TWB as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ground-breaking book **"This Bridge Called My Back"**, with a new collection titled "This Bridge We Call Home" (Routlege). 9pm Steelworker's Hall - 33 Cecil Street Tix: $8-12 (sliding scale) - on sale Thursday November 7th

Nov. 30 EarthTONES 2002. Live Music feat. Faculty of Medicine's finest musicians. Proceeds to children's healthcare initiatives world-wide. $12 - 7pm @ Convocation Hall Info/tickets call 416-978-2684 earthtones2002@hotmail.com

Nov. 30 End of Term Party This event will celebrate the affiliation of the Toronto Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies with the Sexual Diversity Studies Program and the launch of several scholarships for Sexual Diversity Studies Students. Come and meet other faculty and students who are associated with the program. 5:00p.m.-8:30p.m. University College Room 240

Dec. 6. Friday Workshop Series, feat. Mark Crane, "The Use of bonae literae in Sixteenth-Century France". Northrop Frye Hall. 73 Queen's Park, Room 205. 3:15 p.m.

Dec. 6 FREE FRIDAY FILMS AT INNIS COLLEGE. Meet Me in St. Louis. Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave. 7:00p.m.

Dec. 7. Graduates' Christmas Luncheon with Jane Pepino, "Reflections from a Froshie at Mid-Life: What I wish I'd known in 1965", tickets: $15, please contact the Alumni Office to register (416-585-4500), 12:00 p.m

Dec. 9 Public Lecture: **SCREWING THE SYSTEM: MASCULINITIES, MONEY & FETISHISM** by Professor Anne McClintock. Great Hall, Hart House. 7 Hart House Circle, 7:00p.m. Free. Info: (416) 922-8744

Dec. 13 "Christmas Around The World" feat. Peter Karrie w/ Richard Birney Smith and Laura Pin $30 - call 905-627-0757 Ryerson United Church, Hamilton

Dec. 20 "Christmas Around The World" feat. Peter Karrie w/ Richard Birney Smith and Laura Pin $30 - call 905-627-0757 St. James Church, Cambridge

Dec. 21 "Christmas Around The World" feat. Peter Karrie w/ Richard Birney Smith and Laura Pin $30 - call 905-627-0757 Appleton United Church, Burlington

Wanna be a writer?

The Underground is always looking for people to write articles. What's your interest? Campus life, science, sex, food, politics, style... And poetry. We'd really like to have some angry feminist poetry. Or cartoons.. We could really use some comic-strips.

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queer corner

Understanding Homophobia and Heterosexism

Prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people continues to be widespread in Canadian society, even as public opinion has shifted towards increasing opposition to discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Definitions and Meanings

Homophobia is a term that was coined by psychologist George Weinberg in the 1960s, to describe "heterosexuals' dread of being in close quarters with homosexuals as well as homosexuals' self loathing". Since then, *homophobia* has come to mean "an aversion to gay or homosexual people or their lifestyle or culture" and "behavior or an act based on this aversion." Other definitions identify *homophobia* as an **irrational** fear of homosexuality.

Around the same time, *heterosexism* began to be used as a term analogous to sexism and racism, describing an ideological system that denies, denigrates, and stigmatizes any non-heterosexual form of behavior, identity, relationship, or community. Using the term *heterosexism* highlights the parallels between anti-LGBTQ sentiment and other forms of prejudice, such as racism, antisemitism, and sexism.

Like institutional racism and sexism, heterosexism pervades societal customs and institutions. It operates through a dual process of invisibility and attack. Homosexuality usually remains culturally invisible; when people who engage in homosexual behavior or who are identified as homosexual become visible, they are subject to attack by society.

A Dozen Tips To Combat Homophobia and Heterosexism

1. Educate yourself! LGBTQ persons can get very tired of having to educate others (and sometimes even need more education themselves…) Take responsibility for your attitudes and search out factual information about queer issues and sexual diversity. A great place to start is on the Student Affairs LGBTQ Resources & Programs website at: http://www.sa.utoronto.ca/area.php?waid=4
2. Attend an anti-homophobia workshop (There's one at UTSC on Wednesday, November 20th from 2-4pm in S-403, Council Chambers.)
3. Don't assume that everyone is heterosexual.
4. Refuse to tolerate homophobic jokes or comments.
5. Challenge someone if s/he makes an offensive remark, and counter it with factual information.
6. Report incidents of hate-crime or hate-graffiti to the UTSC Police, or use the online hate-crime reporting form at https://www.campuslife.utoronto.ca/saforms/lgbtq-reporting.html
7. Don't be fooled by stereotypes. Realize that LGBTQ people look just like everyone else… Lesbians can wear skirts and make-up. Gay men don't always wear nice shoes. And LGBTQ people come in all shapes, sizes and colours too!
8. Encourage ambiguity. If you identify as straight and people jump to the conclusion that you are queer for whatever reason, resist your impulse to deny it. Immediate denial can contribute to the belief that identifying as queer is undesirable.
9. Change your own use of language to be inclusive and as gender-neutral as possible. Heterosexism is promoted and maintained powerfully through language.
10. If someone comes out to you, it means s/he trusts you. Respect their courage and set aside any discomfort you may feel.
11. Don't "out" people. It is a betrayal of their trust, and can put people in serious emotional and physical danger or make them subject to discrimination.
12. Learn about the Positive Space Campaign at UTSC, and help out! By working together we can make this campus a welcoming environment for people of all sexual orientations…

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